AN

ENQUIRY

INTO THE

Melancholy Circumſtances

OF

GREAT BRITAIN:

More particularly

In regard to the OECONOMY

OF PRIVATE FAMILIES and PERSONS,	FARMERS,
GENTLEMEN,	MERCHANTS,
CLERGY,	TRADESMEN,
	MECHANICKS, *&c.*

With OBSERVATIONS on the New Methods of Living and Diverſions in both CITY and COUNTRY, with ſome Remedies to prevent the Ruin of private Families; and Remarks upon our TRADE in general, and eſpecially of ſuch Commodities as are imported for Luxury, or injurious to our Manufactures.

Alſo ſome Hints to prevent the growing POVERTY of theſe NATIONS.

Tunc tibi cura tui, cum ſit tibi cura tuorum.

LONDON:

Printed for W. BICKERTON in *Fleet-ſtreet.*

BRITISH GEN MUSEUM
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AN

ENQUIRY

INTO THE

Melancholy Circumſtances

OF

GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

IT is a melancholy Thing to hear the Complaints of the Loſs of Trade, the Dearneſs of Proviſions, the Greatneſs of our Taxes, the Highneſs of our Poor Rates in the midſt of an unavoidable War, while ſome are rioting in Diverſions and an univerſal Luxury, without conſidering how near they are to the Brink of Deſtruction, and how much it behoves all, even in private as well as publick Stations, to be frugal, upon which depends the Liberties of their Country.

This will appear by an impartial Enquiry into our Affairs, particularly in regard to our Trade and Manufactures, our Method of Living, *&c.* from whence ſome Obſervations may be made, and Methods propoſed to induce People to think for themſelves, and prevent growing Evils to themſelves and their Poſterity.

In this Enquiry let us take a View of our Trade, Method of Living, and Diverſions at preſent, and then compare them with the State of this Kingdom in the glorious and flouriſhing Reign of Queen *Elizabeth.*

Trade is what this Nation ſolely depends on; for miſerable would be the State of landed Gentlemen without it: The Farmers could not vend their Wool, their Wheat would grow in their Granaries, and their Barley lie unmalted, without Exportation; their Aſh for Hoops and Oak for Staves and Hop-poles would be but Fuel; in ſhort, their Land would lie uncultivated, and Landlords inſtead of receiving Caſh for Rent muſt, at beſt, be contented with a poor Pittance in Kind. Without Trade there would be no Diverſions for the gay World, nor, what is more eſſential, no Liberty for the People in general, but muſt return to their old Villaniſm, a Yoke which our Fathers could not, nor ſhall we be able to bear.

Trade may be reduced to two Heads, Foreign and Domeſtick; the firſt with other Kingdoms and States as are not ſubject to the Crown of *Great Britain.* (In Domeſtick I ſhall include *Ireland* and our Colonies abroad.)

That Foreign Trade is better for *Great Britain,* where the Ballance is paid our Merchants in Caſh, than where they are obliged to remit Money to make good their Deficiencies; therefore it is but Prudence to prefer the Commodities of thoſe Countries before thoſe for which a Ballance in Caſh muſt be paid; as

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the Wines of *Portugal* before thoſe of *France*; tho' either may be a Luxury to encourage farther than for Health; yet that would not conſume much, and the *Portugueze* are in Juſtice entitled, as they take our Labour, we ſhould take theirs before other Nations, who neither pay us Ballance, or give us full-wrought Manufactures or Commodities of a fantaſtical Value, or for Luxury. Neither is it prudent to encourage ſuch Nations as rival us in any of our Manufactures, or ſuch as we have a Probability of raiſing either at home, or our Colonies abroad; for if our Nobility and Gentry will not encourage their Tenants, how can it be expected that they ſhould pay them their Rents? And in ſtrict Juſtice the Manufacturers are entitled to their Conſumption; for if they conſume the Commodities of the Gentleman, which is the Product of his Lands, the Nobility and Gentry ought to conſume theirs, as the Manufacturer enables them to live with Grandeur (which they cannot do, let their Eſtates be ever ſo large) without them: Sure they are entitled to a comfortable Support from their Superiors, and not to be left to ſtarve whilſt foreign Tradeſmen live in Luxury.

The preferring foreign Manufactures before our own is a ſort of Robbery to the Publick, as well as an Injury to our own Families, eſpecially where they can have thoſe at home, which anſwer all the Ends of thoſe brought from abroad, and are ſometimes better in their Kinds, but forced to be ſold to unſkilful Purchaſers under Foreign Names.

Are there not as good Velvets and Silks wove in *Spittlefields* as any imported from abroad? Are not the Laces of *Bedfordſhire*, *Buckinghamſhire*, and *Northamptonſhire*, of whiter Colour, and as genteel Patterns as any brought from *Flanders*? Are not the *Scotch* and *Iriſh* Linens of all ſorts come up to if not brought to exceed any foreign? Does not the Carpeting wove in

England, riſe again where it has been trod on, which the *French* does not? Then they are better; and if this is allowed, as all of Judgment in thoſe different Branches affirm, ſurely it muſt be the higheſt Imprudence in the Encouragers of Foreign Manufactures to injure themſelves and their Country; for if our Importations in ſuch Commodities, thro' our Luxury, ſhould exceed our Exportations, Foreigners will over-ballance us in Trade, which will cauſe an Exportation of Money, the common Standard of all Commodities; for no Country will part with their Effects without an Equivalent, which if not in Goods, muſt be in Money; and if our Luxury increaſes, Money muſt go out for them to the Injury of all Eſtates in *Great Britain*. Mr. *Gee*, in his Account of Trade, tells us, moſt Nations in *Europe*, (*Portugal* excepted) do overballance us, and we are forced to pay it in Caſh; if ſo, how cautious ought we to be how we uſe thoſe Commodities, which drain ſo much Money from us, when we have equally as good, if not ſuperior Manufactures from our Fellow Subjects, who take our Produce in Return?

Nor in general does it ſignify what part of the Subjects of *Great Britain* are the Manufacturers, whether thoſe of *North Britain* or *Ireland*, there being ſome few ſtaple Commodities peculiar to *England*. As for our *American* and *Weſt India* Colonies, they raiſe Commodities peculiar to their ſeveral Climates, which after being manufactured here, are returned them again with other Effects in Balance for the Produce of the Plantations, to the great Encouragement of Navigation, the Strength and Glory of theſe Nations. If we wear *Iriſh* Linen, their Abſentees ſpend the Profit amongſt us, ſo does the *Scotch* Nobility, and all our Colonies, whoſe Children are chiefly educated here, beſides the Manufactures they all have from hence; ſo that the Money circulates again to us, and is not

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ſunk in the bottomleſs Pit of Foreigners Pockets, Therefore ſhall the tender Mother forget her Pains for Pride, and be forgetful of the Offspring which ſhe brought forth with ſo much Labour and Sorrow, by wearing Foreign Manufactures? and will not our Ladies appear more amiable when their Dreſs ſhowers down Bleſſings on them, the repeated Bleſſings of the Poor and Indigent, of the Widow and the Fatherleſs of their own Country, than when they have contributed towards enriching Foreign Manufacturers? The Reflection, they have contributed towards the Support of many poor Families of their own Country, will give them inexpreſſible Peace and Tranquillity of Mind, will make their moſt ſolitary Hours chearful, and they will appear with more Luſtre in publick. Would but the Gentlemen lead the way, and convince them, they would ſoon think thus, and then it is not to be doubted but our Ladies, who have a Love for their Country, and who deſire to act in a Courſe of Virtue, will follow their Example; and if they come to this juſt way of thinking, they may expect their Countrymen may improve in other Ornaments of Dreſs for them. Several can remember when printed Callicoes were put down, when it was ſaid we could not print Linen ſo beautiful, nor make Paper or Linen in theſe Iſlands; it is demonſtrable, that with Encouragement all has been done to anſwer all the Uſes of Foreign *India* Chinces, *&c.* White Callicoes being ſeldom uſed but by Ladies of the Town, or People of no Faſhion, I ſhall let them paſs, but continue to ſpeak to thoſe of Faſhion. That though Diamonds are the Product of the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*, they are beſt cut and ſet by the Lapidaries about the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*; and for Watches, the *Engliſh* exceed all the World.

Nor can the encouraging Foreign Manufactures, before thoſe of our Fellow Subjects, by any means

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be ſafe; for although we are in alliance with a Kingdom or State at one Time, we may not be ſo at another, and if we uſe their Commodities before our own, we may not only provide them with the Sinews of War to moleſt us, but muſt raiſe Taxes to ſupport ourſelves againſt them; as in the preſent War with *Spain*, although we took more of the Commodities which were chiefly for Luxury of that Kingdom than all other Foreign Nations, yet they, under the Miniſtry of the Duke of *Ripperda*, ſet up a Woolen Manufacture at *Segovia* for their own Troops, which uſed to be cloathed by the *Engliſh*, aſſaulted *Gibraltar*, and moleſted our Trade in the *Weſt Indies*, that it made War abſolutely neceſſary, from whence proceeds heavy Taxes to ſupport ourſelves. And this may be again, and has been the Caſe of other Nations; for *Charles* the Twelfth of *Sweden* put up a Monopoly for Pitch and Tar, and would not only force us to buy of that Company upon his own Terms, but inſiſted upon its being imported in *Swediſh* Bottoms; and the Czar *Peter the Great* inſiſted in having the naval Stores we had from *Ruſſia* imported in his own Veſſels; and it was not only in his Power to put what Price he pleaſed upon them, but prevent our having them at all, if we ſhould have happened to be at War with him or his Allies, had not the Government interfered in Commodities ſo abſolutely neceſſary, that it was not fitting that we ſhould lie at the Mercy of Foreign Princes, and pay ready Money for what we could be ſupplied from our Plantations with upon eaſier Terms, and ſave our Money by carrying our own Manufactures for them, whereby we not only encouraged our Fellow Subjects there, but diverted them from ſetting up or carrying on Manufactures, which directly interfered with *Great Britain* to the Damage of the Manufactures at home.

But of all foreign Manufactures we have the leaſt Reaſon to encourage the *French*, if we look upon them as hereditary Enemies, Breakers of Treaties, or Rivals in Trade, or the Unneceſſarineſs of their Commodities, and the Ballance they have againſt us in Trade. For the firſt, our Hiſtory is full of it; and, for the ſecond, *Dunkirk* tells us. At this Time in *America*, they have planted upon the *Miſſiſippi* and *Canada* Rivers, that they can come upon the Back of our Plantations; and they have frequently moleſted our Settlements in thoſe Parts; upon *Newfoundland* they have the Liberty of building Stages, and drying their Fiſh; at *Cape Britaine* they have a better Fiſhery than any belonging to the *Engliſh*; in the *Weſt-Indies* they have *Martinique*, *Dominique*, *Guardalope*, *Grand terre Margilante*, *Granada*, *Cayanne*, and the beſt Part of *Hiſpaniola*, where they raiſe not only the ſame Commodities as the *Britiſh* Planters, but rival them, in Time of Peace, in the *Spaniſh* Trade, and run *French* Goods into the *Britiſh* Colonies. In *Africa* they have an excluſive Trade from *Serra Lione* to the *Cape* of *Good-Hope*, from thence they ſupply their Colonies with Negroes; in *Turky* they have a great Influence at the Port, and by late Accounts, they are to pay leſs Duties there, than other Nations. The *Eaſt-Indies* they are no Strangers to, nor is there a Part of the World, where there is a Poſſibility, but they will get a footing. In *France*, at *Abbeville*, they eſtabliſhed a Manufacture of Cloth under the late Mynheer *Van Robe*, and allowed him, though a Proteſtant, the Practice of his Religion, which Manufactury is now in Partnerſhip of four Perſons, who keep, at leaſt, 1000 Perſons employed, who are daily called to, and diſcharg'd from, their Work, by the Beat of a Drum; and though they have not above five Shillings *per* Week, dare not abſent themſelves

ſelves from their Work, (Sickneſs or any other corporal Ailments excepted) they being bounden to their Maſters, as ſome of our Glaſs-Manufacturers are to theirs about *London*; nor are their Maſters ſcrupulous in owning, that they could not carry on the Manufactory without *Engliſh* or *Iriſh* Wool, at which Time they will tell you, that the *Engliſh* as much exceeds the *Iriſh*, as the *Iriſh* Wool exceeds their own: Neither, in that Town, could the Manufactory of *Mocquettes* be carried on at this Time by Meſſieurs *Homaſſelle* and *Huguet*, without *Engliſh* Wool; there is, likewiſe in that Town, a Manufactory of Stuffs which would, if not quite ſink, greatly decline without a continual Supply of that Commodity. That Town, and the whole Kingdom, is in a great Meaſure ſupplied by our Smugglers with Wool or Money, in exchange for *French* Spirits diſtilled from the Lees of Apples, not ſo good as the *Engliſh*, uſed to the Deſtruction of their Perſons, and of our Wealth, which being a better Standard than their own Coin, is melted down to their great Advantage.

To ſupply our Extravagance of Dreſs, ſeveral of our Gentry muſt have the Trimmings of their Cloaths, which is now carried to a great Height, to be of *French* Gold or Silver-Lace; and for their Tables, it is perfectly unpolite, unleſs it is plentifully ſupplied with *French* Claret, a Wine never eſteem'd ſo much as Port before the high Duties put upon it, and, by our Phyſicians, reckon'd pernicious in the Gout: Which ſhews, what Pains ſome will bear, and what Pride they will ſhew, rather than be thought not to exceed their Neighbours in Extravagance, in Injury to our Farmers, Butchers and Graziers. About theſe Cities, in Winter, we have Wild-Fowl lies about our Streets brought from thence, Eggs by Barrels, Apples without Tale;

our Fiſh is often bought of *French* Smacks caught upon the *Engliſh* Coaſt; likewiſe *French* Toys and Things of no intrinſick Value, for all which, at the moſt moderate Computation, what we pay in Balance, is eſteem'd at five hundred thouſand Pounds annually, beſides the Injury we ſuffer by Smugglers, which tho' it may be as much more, the Knowledge of it can't be ſo eaſily come at.

Thinking People allow, that by theſe Methods many of our Misfortunes are brought upon ourſelves. But our Luxury is not confined to *Europe*; the whole Globe is compaſſed for it; the *Eaſt* and the *Weſt-Indies* muſt be viſited for to ſupply our Pride and Vanity; full wrought Manufactures are imported, when we might be ſupply'd with as neat, and as uſeful at home, which would help to relieve our poor Manufacturers, and leſſen their Rates to the Eaſe of Gentlemen's Tenants and Eſtates. Teas, Coffee, Chocolate, Liquors unknown to our Anceſtors, ſupply the Place of Proviſions of our Farms: Immenſe Sums are given for the brittle Ware of *China*, *Dreſden* and St. *Cloud*, which if it has the Fortune to eſcape the Cats, or a negligent Servant a few Years, a fantaſtical Value is put upon it; and ſome will ſooner have their Lands mortgaged, or Children unſupported, rather than go without the uſeleſs wooden Ware of *Japan*.

Experience demonſtrates the ill Effects of our foreign Luxury, and all prudent Methods ought to be taken to ſuppreſs it; for he is ſo much a *Frenchman*, or *Indian*, tho' a Native of *Britain*, and perhaps won't bear to be called by another Name, if he uſes their Manufactures before thoſe of his own Country; and if the Citizens will not prefer the Manufactures and Proviſions of our Kingdom before what is foreign; how can they expect the Farmers can pay their Rents to the Gentlemen? and, How can

the Gentlemen purchaſe of them, unleſs they conſume the Produce of their Lands, and the Labour of their Tenants?

Let thoſe that are Lovers of their Country, and of the Rights and Privileges of it, remember, that Luxury was the Bane of Liberty; the *Romans* were no ſooner corrupted, but they loſt it; it prevailed againſt them more than Hoſts of their Enemies. Luxury and expenſive Diverſions may be uſhered in with as much Applauſe as the *Trojan* Horſe, but they, like him, bring Ruin and Deſtruction to their Receivers.

Thoſe Gentlemen who have travelled and brought home *French* Faſhions, ought to be remembered, that one has been forgot to be imitated by many of them; that is, that the *French* will wear their own coarſe Cloaths with their fine Cambrick Ruffles, as unſuitable as they look in *England*; but they think not ſo, as long as they are both their own Manufactures; and this was a Faſhion of their great Monarch *Lewis* XIV. who being told upon the Death of his Mother, that *Engliſh* Cloth was wanted for Mourning for his Court, prohibited it, and had his own made of *French* Cloth; and deſired his Courtiers to ſee how it fitted him, and which of his Subjects thought it not good enough for him, when he wore it, and took particular Notice of ſuch as appeared in Cloaths and Stuffs of their own manufacturing; a Faſhion well worthy Imitation by *Britiſh* Courtiers.

For if Gentlemen will not encourage the Manufacturers of their Country, it will drive them to ſeek for Refuge abroad, rather than ſtarve at home, where they are encouraged to carry on *Britiſh* Manufactures. At *Limburch*, in *Flanders*, they formerly made only coarſe Cloths, a few Years ago; but by the Means of the *Amſterdam* Merchants, and one *Capell*, who broke at *Stroud* in *Glouceſterſhire*, and was forced out

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of *England* by his Creditors, who refuſed a Compoſition of ten Shillings in the Pound, joined in Company with one Mr. *Clermont* of that City, and grew rich in a few Years; he was followed by others in the like Circumſtances, who choſe rather to leave their native Country and Friends, than all their Lives to be the Prey of pettyfogging Attornies, Bum-bailiffs, Gaolers and their Followers. Several Places in *France* and *Holland* are full of *Engliſh* Fugitives, ſome of which carry over, or have large Remittances made to them, which is a great Drain to the publick Caſh, as well as our Manufactures. It would be worth the Thoughts of ſome publick-ſpirited Perſon to think of ſome Method to prevent it; and then, if they will not ſtay at home, thoſe Abſentees ought to be taxed extraordinary, as they are in *Ireland*, and the poorer Manufacturers, if they ſhould be ſome Way relieved here, would never fly to teach Foreigners the Manufactures of their Country, ſo much to the Prejudice of Gentlemens Eſtates; for without Employment it can't be ſuppoſed they can live, without being a Burthen to their Pariſhes, or fall into Idleneſs, the Conſequence of which leads them into vicious Courſes, which may be more deſtructive; ſo that Gentlemens Tenants will be either burthened or plagued, that they will not be able to pay their Rents, (which in ſome Places in the Weſt of *England* is ſo already) the Taxes and Poor Rates being ſo high. Therefore, it is the Intereſt of Gentlemen not to encourage Foreigners before their own Countrymen, leſt their Eſtates ſhould be flung upon their Hands, which many are; and if ſuch luxurious Practices ſhould be further followed, thoſe that have Eſtates may be more neceſſitous (as they are more helpleſs) than the pooreſt of all; and if they husband their Lands themſelves, they will ſcarcely mend their Affairs, Gentlemen generally making ſuch indifferent

Farmers, that ſeldom upon an Average any could boaſt of the Gain they ever made by Farming.

Having mentioned Farmers, I can't overlook ſuch a Body of uſeful Members of our Commonwealth without putting them in mind of ſome Inconveniencies they bring on themſelves, and they are much concerned to rectifie, though the Parliament has in ſome meaſure done it for them in that of Horſe-racing, which made their Families expenſive, and Servants idle; for where-ever theſe Diverſions are, though in the midſt of Harveſt, all muſt go to the Sport, where the poor Horſes, which worked hard in the Heat of the Day muſt be hacked about in the Evening, and made unfit for Labour the next Day; and thoſe that live near a Courſe are ſure to have their Habitations like a Cake-Houſe at ſuch Times, yet none but Publick Houſes receive any Advantage by them; and of them there are ſuch Numbers in every Road, that if all the Kingdom were Travellers, or the whole World to travel through *England*, I queſtion if it would ſupport half of them; ſo they are become a great Nurſery of Idleneſs, and by ſome little Artifices Wine Clubs are put up in many of them, where the Farmer is detained, ſpending not only what ſhould be ſaved to provide for their Families, but alſo to the Prejudice of their Landlords, and the Conſumption of the Products of their Farms. Their Families are ſet out with Tea Equipage or Cards, and ſome are ſo polite, that they have viſiting Days, and go to Aſſemblies, in which their Dreſs is above what was anciently wore by Farmers Daughters; and being bred ſo polite, they are not content with being Servants of better Rank, though upon Terms of having their Education with their Landlords Children; and ſome of the Farmers own Servants are ſo ſet out in their ſtriped party-coloured mix'd Silk Gowns, that they might be employed to ſcare the Crows in their Maſters

ſters Fields. How can the Farmer that acts thus, or ſuffers ſuch Things in his Family, complain of bad Times, or having no Call for his Wool, when his Family is too proud to wear it? He perhaps drinks Wine inſtead of his own Ale or Cyder, and has the Silks of *Italy* and *France* made up for his Family, and inſtead of good houſewifely home-ſpun has Foreign Linen in the ſtead. He may complain unpitied till he rectify theſe Fopperies. Thoſe good Dames that wore the High-crown'd Hats, with fine *Engliſh* Scarlet Cloth Petticoats and Sleeves, who were not above making their own Hay, or looking after their Dairies themſelves, who preferred their own Manufactures before Foreign; were ſuch as *Solomon* ſpoke of, whoſe Husbands were honoured in the Seat; theſe did not only pay their Rents chearfully, provide for their Families handſomly, lived hoſpitally, and gave charitably to their poor and decayed Labourers; whilſt many of our modern Madams and Miſſes, Pride and Extravagance prevents the Eſteem as they would have from their Inferiors, or the Regard as would be ſhewn them by their Superiors; for the more any Perſons eſteem themſelves, the leſs they are valued by others, eſpecially when Self-regard is accompanied with Pride and Poverty.

There are indeed ſome great Inconveniencies ariſe from ſome Landlords to their Tenants, and where ſuch Tenants have ſuch Landlords the beſt Way is to fling up their Farms the firſt Opportunity, I mean ſuch as are always for raiſing their Rents: It will be impoſſible for a Farmer to thrive under ſuch a Landlord, or make any Proviſion for his Family. Nor is it the Intereſt of the Landlord to do it; for if he racks his Tenant, and impoveriſhes him, he wears out the Heart of his Eſtate, nor manures it as it ſhould be; ſo that when he is obliged to leave it the Eſtate muſt be under-let, and Repairs muſt be made before

the Landlord may be able to get a Tenant as can pay the Rent of it.

The raiſing of Rents began in the fatal Year 1720, for then a falſe View of Riches intoxicated the Nation to a Degree of Frenzy; few were without their imaginary Wealth, and ſuch talked of their Ten Thouſands as could not raiſe Ten Pounds Sterling. Whimſical Projects had Subſcribers to raiſe Millions to carry them on, and Numbers of ignorant People through Avarice, or the Artifices of ſharping Stock-jobbers, and knaviſh Projectors, who had imported it from *France*, where the deſtructive Scheme was firſt begun, which we imitated, to the ſame fatal End. It was then that theſe Harpies realized their Subſcriptions and Stocks for ten times the Value, by purchaſing Eſtates for Bubbles, and raiſing their Rents in proportion to what was the ſuppoſed Purchaſe; and Country Gentry, who ſaw neighbouring Lands fetch higher Rents, raiſed theirs likewiſe. This was not the ancient Uſage of *England*; for Tenants have remained on Eſtates from Generation to Generation, and where that has been, the Land has been kept in good Heart, the Fences and every thing in Order, and the Rent duly paid, and the Farmers could live and provide for their Families; for the Cuſtom was, that the Value of a Farm ſhould be divided into three Parts, Profit the Firſt for the Landlord, the Second for the Farmer to live on, the Third to provide for his Family, which is to be wiſhed could be done now: Poor Rates and Taxes (ſetting aſide the modern Way of Living) being ſo much higher than in former Times, that unleſs the Gentleman falls his Rents, which were raiſed in this Year, and the Farmer alter his Method of Living, there can be but little Probability of either of their holding it.

For if a Country Gentleman is reputed to have five hundred Pounds a Year, and lives in proportion, as

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was formerly uſual, to ſuch an Income, he muſt run out; for as the Land Tax is four Shillings in the Pound, (and in ſome Diviſions is more, as ſome know by the Over-rates they are called upon for) it is One-fifth of annual Income. The Poor Rates in ſome Countries take away another Fifth, beſides Highways, Window-lights, and other Taxes, with Church Rates; all which muſt be *paid* out of the *Eſtate*, though Part is laid upon the Tenant, it will be exceeding happy for ſuch a Gentleman to receive neat 250 *l. p r Annum*; but if he ſhould be one that has his Eſtate racked to the utmoſt to increaſe his Rent-Roll, and his Tenants ſhould not be able to hold it, or break, it may happen, that two Years Rent may not put his Farms into Repair again; then how can ſuch a Gentleman live as he ſhould? or ſuppoſe he has a Family, Can he afford without great Frugality to provide for them, or, if Daughters, marry them equally to their Stations in the World? No! from this proceeds ſo many Country Gentlemen ſpending their Times at Levees of great Men to provide little Places for their Sons, and unhappy Marriages (if not worſe Fates) for their Daughters.

Some Gentlemen are ſo unhappy as to come to their Eſtates, which are mortgaged to half their Income, and yet make a Shew of living to the full Rents; if that is the Caſe, let them ſtate their Accounts by Debtor and Creditor, thus:

Annual Rent *per* Rent Roll 500 *l.* at 5 *per Cent.*		
P. R. Debtor to *R. W.* for 5000 *l.*	250 *l.*	Intereſt.
Land Tax —— ——	100	
Church Rates, High-ways, and other Taxes ——	100	
	450	

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ſo that the Total of a Gentleman's Income under ſuch Circumſtances is, that he has fifty Pounds a Year, ſuppoſing his Rent is duly paid him, to provide for his Family; but if he has Loſſes by Tenants, or Repairs to make, which few Gentlemen are without, then what a melancholy Proſpect has ſuch a Gentleman before him! If the above Taxes are not over-rated; but it is to be wiſhed they may find them rather under; tho' there are few, I am afraid, but will exceed rather than come under that Sum, eſpecially if Ground-rent is paid out of it, as is the Caſe of many in and about *London*.

If any Gentleman ſhould be in ſuch Circumſtances, or like it, what Difficulties has he to ſtruggle with, unleſs he uſes Frugality to retrieve himſelf? Is ſuch a Gentleman prudent to encourage Foreigners in his Diverſions, or Foreign Manufactures of any kind? had he not better confine himſelf to the Produce of his own Lands, and that of his Fellow Subjects? or if he does not, others may confine him from his own Eſtate, *which ſhall paſs away to Strangers, and his Name ſhall be no more heard of.*

Here give me leave to add a prudent Piece of Management which I have often obſerved in *Flanders*, where the Quality during the Winter Seaſon live in *Bruſſels*, or ſome other large Town, to the full Height and Splendor of their Fortunes; nor do I doubt but they very often exceed the Extent of them during the abovementioned Seaſon; but then no ſooner does the ſmiling Year appear, but they retire to their *Chateaux*, and live to much leſs perhaps than One-eighth of their Eſtates; their Game-keeper or *Chaſſeur* goes out every Morning and brings home a Brace, two or three, of Partridges, Woodcocks, Hares, Rabbets, or what elſe Fortune flings in his Way, which with their own Poultry, and a little Butchers Meat, and other Vegetables of their

their Produce, makes an Appearance of living high, when at the ſame time, I doubt very much whether they ſpend more than I have above mentioned. A very good Example for ſuch Gentlemen whoſe Fortunes are declining.

Sometimes Country Gentlemen have Marriage Settlements upon their Eſtates; and this is but Juſtice: Some prudent Women have provided for younger Children out of them, perhaps for an adequate Fortune paid upon Marriage, which is highly reaſonable in ſuch a Caſe. It may be no improper Caution for young Gentlemen not to live up to that Income before they come to receive it; for many have found great Inconveniencies from ſuch Proceedings.

If this ſhould be the Caſe of Gentlemen, they can ill afford expenſive Diverſions, and Foreign Luxury; for if their Money is ſent abroad for ſuch Things, how ſhall the Produce of their Lands be valuable? It is ridiculous to ſuppoſe Barter and Exchange of Goods to be eaſy or commodious, or that it will furniſh the Gentleman with as many Conveniencies of Life, as if he kept his Caſh at home.

In the Weſt of *England* they are in great Diſtreſs, the Number of their Poor, together with their Taxes, put Gentlemen to great Streights, that ſeveral of them would let their Eſtates upon ſure and clear Rent for a quarter Value to what they are called, the Tenant paying all Taxes. Therefore it is to be hoped Gentlemen will keep an exact Account of their Debts, and conſider how ſmall a Part of their Eſtates they have for their own Uſe; for if their Debts ſhould happen to be equal to the fourth Part of the preſent Value of their whole Eſtates, and with what is paid out of it in the Taxes to the Church and Poor, they can be ſcarcely ſaid to have One-fifth to provide for themſelves and Family.

Nothing is more miſerable than to fall from a Life of Luxury and Eaſe; happy would it be for theſe Gentlemen if they had lived by their daily Labour, the Grievance would be leſs than if they ſhould come to the Pariſh for Subſiſtance; but how far more wretched would be the Condition of thoſe gay Ladies, who ſparkle in foreign Laces and Silks at *Ranelagh*, *Vaux-hall*, and other publick Places in Summer, and blaze every Night in the Boxes, or at Maſquerades, (a Diverſion firſt brought into this Nation by the Duke *D'Aumont*, the *French* Embaſſador, who at the ſame time aimed to give us Popery and Slavery in Exchange for Liberty?) how will thoſe ſoft Hands be brought to work? how will their Complexions agree with the Morning Air? and yet very Hunger will not let them ſleep. And laſtly, what will become of the fineſt Race of Fox-hunters? they may e'en feed their Dogs with their Horſes; and when they have done that, they may hang up all their Dogs: It will be no Time for Sports and Diverſions; but in their Place they will be every where entertained with Scenes of Horror, and be no where able to turn their Eyes without ſeeing the Ruin and Deſolation of their Country, yet no where find more miſerable Objects than themſelves.

If we look into the lower Claſs of People, we ſcarce find the induſtrious Poor ſufficiently encouraged, and the idle Vagabonds left to too much Licentiouſneſs; for an induſtrious poor Perſon, who works at the Spinning Wheel from Five in the Morning to Nine at Night, can't earn in ſome Counties and Buſineſſes above Four Pence *per Diem*; a poor Pittance for honeſt Labour: They ſurely deſerve their Hire, whilſt a Smuggler or ſtroling Gipſy goes free, and lives better. To preſume to inſtruct the Legiſlature, is Aſſurance; but many would be pleaſed to hear of Acts to hang the firſt, and tranſport the laſt.

Smugglers

Smugglers not only deprive our Poor of their Bread by tranſporting our Wool and Caſh, and importing poiſonous *French* Spirits to enervate the People, but corrupt the more able labouring Men from their honeſt and uſeful Method of Life, to go armed in Numbers with Blunderbuſſes and Piſtols at Noonday, through ſeveral Market Towns, with their Run Goods, to the great Injury and Detriment of the fair Trader, who pays the Duties, and by thoſe Means is of real Service to his Country, while the Smuggler is robbing it every Day; and ſuch People as buy of Smugglers ought to conſider how near they approach to be Receivers of ſtolen Goods, though ſeveral think this Sort of Robbing little or no Crime; but the *Romans*, whoſe Virtues we would ſeem to imitate, puniſhed robbing the Publick as the greateſt Crime; yet we frequently hear them complain of our ſinking Condition, whilſt they are daily contributing towards its bad State, by buying ſuch Goods as they know ought to be forfeited by Law. As for thoſe idle Vagabonds, who go about under the Name of Gypſies, on Pretence of telling Fortunes, corrupt poor Servants, and rob the Villages they paſs thro'; nor is it uncommon to find them proſtituting themſelves on or near the High-way, if they were tranſported to ſome of our Plantations, they would be ſatisfied in their Way of Strolling, and from Thieving might come to have a Knowledge of Property, which would give them an honeſter Way of thinking, as Experience has ſhewed by ſeveral tranſported Felons, who when our Sailors at *Virginia* have ſtolen a few Cabbages from them have been amazed at their Wickedneſs, not conſidering for how far greater Crimes they themſelves were tranſported.

In a Word, it is a great Pity the labouring Poor have not better Encouragement, the Cries of thoſe

unſkilful Men, who made a Clamour of Labour, being too high, is a Doctrine propagated more by Theory than Practice; for if theſe poor People, whoſe Poverty does not ariſe always from Extravagance, but ſometimes from Sickneſs, and other Caſualties, turn Fugitives abroad before being ſacrificed at home to Gaolers, where they meet with Encouragement, as I before obſerved, it encourages others of their Craft to follow them, who by their Intereſt with their Friends at home get ſupplied with every thing neceſſary for carrying on their Projects abroad, to the great Injury of the Manufactures at home.

Having mentioned the Danger of Luxury, and the Uſe of Foreign Manufactures, let us conſider, that of our Domeſtick we have but few ſtaple Commodities, which are or may not be rivaled by Foreigners. In the Fiſhery, I have obſerved many that are uſed are bought of the *French*. All along the Coaſt of *Great Britain*, the *Dutch* fiſh for Herrings, and outdo us, except in the red, which is owing to the Wood that dries them, more than to any extraordinary Induſtry of our own; and for want of a right Management of pickling them, as the *Hollanders* do. They are reckoned at the firſt coming in of the Seaſon a great Rarity with them; and a Burgher of *Amſterdam* will dine as contentedly on one, as a Citizen of *London* of the ſame Circumſtances will with a Surloin of Beef; but of their Living I may obſerve more hereafter. The other is our Wool, which employs moſt of our Inland Poor, has been always eſteemed the greateſt Staple of *England*; but by the Means before mentioned, it may change, if ſome Scheme or another is not forwarded to prevent it. The Lords Commiſſioners of Trade advertiſed for Perſons to give in Propoſals, ſeveral were offered, but probably the Alterations that ſince happened, and

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the other Affairs, took up ſo much Time in the laſt Seſſions of Parliament, as prevented any thing being done for its Security farther; then his Majeſty graciouſly ordered the Penalty of ſuch Offenders to be publiſhed in the *Gazette*: We muſt reſt contented till we ſee what this will produce: We had hopes from the Coinage, Gold and Silver Lace, and Linen Manufactory, that this material One would not have been longer poſtponed.

Extravagance in living higher than uſual with our Anceſtors, (a Race of Men famous for their Courage, Morality and Hoſpitality,) is a Truth too well known to be dwelt on; nor are we content, as they were, with the Neceſſaries and Conveniencies of Life; but exceed in Ornamentals both of Apparel and Houſhold Furniture. The Intereſt of Money this Way expended might be more uſefully employed than laid out in Watches, Rings, and Plate, which is carried to ſuch a great Profuſion by ſome, that it viſibly exceeds what their Fortunes can afford.

Families of Fortune keep very large Retinues, which draws thoſe from Country Labour, who were born to it, into a luxurious idle Way of living, in which Stations we find them ſo puffed up with Pride and Inſolence, that it is no uncommon thing to ſee a good Tradeſman, nay, ſometimes People of a ſuperior Rank, cringing to a ſaucy Lacky; and this is no ſmall Injury to the Farmers who want Hands; and the Reſort of the Nobility and Gentry to *London* draws many to attend them, where, if ſuch don't turn Soldiers, Gameſters, Highwaymen, they marry and pine away their ſmall Gains in ſome petty Shops, or Publick Houſes; for of them there are ſuch Numbers, that they prey upon one another; whereas the Method formerly was, to put ſuch Servants as married into Farms, and encourage them in Habits of

Induſtry until they were able to ſupport themſelves; and ſuch often improved their Landlords Eſtates, and proved the beſt of Tenants. Many of the Country Cities and Towns having no Manufactures, fall into Aſſemblies, which naturally produce Gaming and Extravagance; and many of them club to pack Dogs, whereby they lead the lower ſort into Habits of Idleneſs, who take up a poaching Livelihood. Would it not be better, if Gentlemen about ſuch Towns would join in encouraging ſome Manufactures which might cure this ſtroling Idleneſs, and then fix them in an eſtabliſhed practical Uſefulneſs, and by theſe Means preſerve their Pariſh from Poor, and keep the Game more ſecure than all the *Laws* for that Purpoſe made and provided now in Force?

The Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and Places adjacent, labour more than any other Part of the Kingdom under Hardſhips of Taxes, and are more exactly collected.

Beſides ſome local Taxes particular to the Places within the Bills of Mortality, the Duty upon Coals falls exceeding heavy upon all the Manufacturers and Poor that live upon the Banks of the River *Thames*; and it is to be hoped, that the Legiſlature will take it into Conſideration; for it is not the High Price of Labour in *England* that enhances her Manufactures, but the *Taxes* upon Coals, Candles, and ſuch Things as the Manufacturer cannot do without; and if we loſe our Trade abroad by neighbouring Nations underſelling us, the Fault is not in the *Engliſh* Merchants, who venture as freely their Fortunes as thoſe of any Nation whatever, and with as generous a Principle; and if he pays the Manufacturer for his Goods, it is but reaſonable he ſhould be ſatisfied for the Riſque and Intereſt of his Money; and if the Manufacturer employs his Time in Labour, by the ſame Reaſon he ſhould be ſatisfied; but if the Materials in Trade continue

tinue ſo high taxed, that muſt be paid in the Manufactures, which makes them ſo dear to Foreign Markets, and gives other Nations Opportunities of underſelling us; and this is one Reaſon of the Complaint of our Loſs of Foreign Trade.

The Tax upon Coals was firſt granted for rebuilding St. *Paul's*, and continued to build fifty new Churches; but through the Liberality of Parliaments, ſome of whoſe Members were not ſo much concerned in the Conſumption of them, granted large Sums out of this Fund to rebuild old ones; alſo in ſeveral Seſſions ſince the Revolution 4000 Pounds a Seſſions to repair and beautify *Weſtminſter Abbey:* If the Right Reverend Fathers, as belong to that Cathedral, and the Reverend Clergy, who petitioned for ſuch Grants, will take into their ſerious Conſideration what the Poor ſuffers about theſe Cities, eſpecially in hard Winters, and what an Injury it is to Manufacturers, who cannot employ the Poor, if the Merchant has not Demands for them, would it not rather ſhew a Spirit of Charity and Generoſity in them to apply ſomething out of their Fines on Leaſes, or other of their Dues, rather than help forward with an univerſal Poverty? which will be the Caſe if our Trade ſhould be loſt abroad, and that muſt be the Conſequence if our Manufactures riſe higher than Foreign; and then muſt not our Houſes fall in their Rents or yearly Value? and will not the Glebe or Tithe of the Clergy in the Bills of Mortality, and elſewhere, (the City of *London* excepted, which was ſettled by Parliament after the Fire) be reduced to that Condition? is it not better for the Clergy to part with this Humour of publick Buildings until a more proper Seaſon, rather than loſe perhaps Three-fourths of the Value of their Livings?

Univerſal Poverty may poſſibly be the Way to Uniformity in Religion; but where is that Self-deny-

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ing Miniſter of the Goſpel, that will give away his Tythes to have his People orthodox, and to have no Hereſy or Schiſm in his Pariſh? Can they imagine that Poverty will make Way for a more abſolute Dominion of the Prieſthood? but if any are of that Opinion, which of them will part with the greateſt Part of his Subſtance for more Power? which of them would deſire to be a ſtarving Ruler of a ſtarving People?

But of the *Clergy* we hope to ſpeak better Things, that is, that where they have Fines upon Renewal of Leaſes, or other Dues, where they aim (under our preſent Circumſtances) at publick Ornaments, they will apply them rather than burthen the Poor, or hinder the Merchant or Manufacturer from employing them, and become Petitioners themſelves to alleviate the Burthen, and remove the Yoke from the Shoulders of the Labourer and Manufacturer.

Nay, thoſe good *Clergymen* who exhort their Audience to Acts of Charity, ſetting forth the Rewards of thoſe that feed the Hungry, and cloath the Naked, whereby a Treaſure is laid up in Heaven, ſhould they not rather appear with a *Britiſh* Band and Linen, and thereby help to maintain the Poor of this Kingdom, than in a Cambrick, which only inriches a *Flanderkin*, and diſpenſe with other *Britiſh* Manufactures, and thereby do real Service to his Country and Countrymen, by whom he is ſupported, than to indulge his Family in an *Italian* Mantua Silk, or *French* Paduaſoy, to the real Prejudice of both?

And how can it be expected, that Numbers of young Clergymen about theſe Cities can be ſupported in Lectureſhips, or otherwiſe, if the Endeavours of the Clergy are not joined to take off burthenſome Taxes from the Laity? How can they who are ſcarce able to live themſelves contribute to ſupport the Clergy? and will not the young Gentlemen, who are

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received in Holy Orders, who have no other Method of Living but by ſerving at the Altar, expect to live by the Altar? and is it not reaſonable the Revenues of the Church, (which moderate Clergymen allow, though unequally divided) ſhould be their Support? but will not theſe Revenues ſink in their Value with the Loſs of Trade? and the Dignity and Grandeur of the Church be overwhelmed in an univerſal Poverty? Therefore out of Compaſſion to the Poor, which the Reverend Clergy, who are ſuch great Promoters of Charity, and in Aſſiſtance to their inferior Brethren, and in Compaſſion to their Country in general, it may be hoped they will lay aſide all Thoughts of publick Buildings until a more proper Opportunity.

In our Domeſtick Trade, or Home Conſumption, ſome don't look upon retailing as any thing to Trade; yet ſome Deference ought to be ſhewn them; for though they do not export or import as the Merchant, if a great many Commodities are conſumed through their Means and Recommendation, though the Merchant is the Importer, or Wholeſale Dealer and Purchaſer of them, and ſort their Commodities in ſuch Methods as are proper for the different Retailers, through whoſe Hands they muſt paſs to Conſumption, they ought not to be ſlightly paſſed over; for in all Cities they make the chief Bulk of the People; and it is they that bear the Burthen of all inferior, troubleſome, parochial and civil Offices; and if they don't pay the Cuſtoms, they bear a proportional Share in other Taxes. This is not mentioned to put them in Competition with Merchants; all know they are the chief Support of the State; it is they that employ Thouſands by Sea and Land; it is their Fortunes that employ the Poor, and breed up the moſt valuable Hands to ſupport the Crown, and Man the Fleet, which gives Laws to diſtant

Nations. All wiſe Princes and States protected, eſteemed, and encouraged them. *Solomon*, the wiſeſt Prince ever recorded in Hiſtory, ſpeaks of them with Honour; and he was a Merchant himſelf; his Ships went to *Tarſhiſh*, and traded with the Kings of *Syria*, the *Hittites*, and *Egypt*, that by his Merchandize he made Silver to be as Stones in *Jeruſalem*, and Cedar as Sycamore Trees. In the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* we find the moſt honourable Families planting Coloniés, and ſeeking out Trade with Foreign Nations, the Queen ſending her Embaſſadors to unknown Princes, and her Stateſmen ſending out brave Adventurers to diſtant Parts of the World, the Benefit of which we reap to this Day; her Stateſmen imitated the publick Spirit of their Miſtreſs; her Soldiers were courageous; her Sailors ventured farther on the Deep than any went before; her Biſhops were venerable Fathers of the Church, and Feeders of their Flocks; her Lawyers grave, learned and honeſt, and from her glorious Reign ſeveral noble Families date their Riſe. Ignorance and a narrow Education are the Conſequences of Neceſſity, and the Conſideration of being only indebted to their Country for their Birth; and a poor Livelihood, earned by hard Labour, may ſometimes tempt the meaneſt of the Community to Actions deſtructive of Society; and Death, and the Confiſcation of their little Subſtance, is the Puniſhment on ſuch Criminals by our Laws inflicted. What Puniſhment is then due to even Coolneſs towards the Welfare of their Country in thoſe who enjoy the Bleſſing of a publick Spirit, and being what they are?

The Writings of *Shakeſpear*, *Ben Johnſon*, *Spencer*, ſhew us, what a publick Spirit could inſpire. In that Age, they had no Ridottos, Operas, Maſquerades, *French* Strolers, Harlequins, *&c.* their Diverſions were manly and modeſt, their Poets were ſuch as became

came a *Sidney*, to be a *Mæcenas* to, and learned Men had then Protectors both in Church and State.

The ſame Spirit in that Reign animated the lower Sort of People, who oftener follow Virtue from Faſhion than Principle; they under ſuch Examples chearfully followed their Leaders in their different Stations; from thence proceeded Succeſs in Arms, a happy Eſtabliſhment in State, which ended after a long Reign glorious to their Sovereign, and honourable to her Subjects.

Edward the Third, another of our greateſt Monarchs, encouraged Foreign Manufacturers to come amongſt us, and granted them many Privileges, and an Allowance from the King, till they were able to ſupport themſelves; and it was enacted, that none ſhould wear Foreign Cloth: Not ſo happy were the Reigns of our Monarchs, who diſregarded or loaded our Trade with Taxes. *Henry* the Sixth had firſt Cuſtoms. The Affair of Tonage and Poundage in the Caſe of Mr. *Rolls* and Mr. *Chambers* with King *Charles*, is too tender, but juſt to be mentioned.

But to return to the Retailers, as they make the Bulk of the People, ſo they are the Tenants of the Rich; and ſhould they not be encouraged, their Rents muſt fall, to the Loſs of their Landlords; and they are pretty ſenſible of it within theſe few Years; for what with new Buildings, and the Decay of Trade, there are many Houſes in the publick Streets, for which not only large Fines, but large Rents were formerly given, now empty and decaying; and ſeveral about this Town, which pay Ground Rent, would be glad to part with their Leaſes, which when bought ſome Years ago were thought the beſt of Purchaſes; and the Builders have ſo far out-run themſelves, that it is no uncommon Thing to mortgage one Story to build another, and let them drop before they are quite finiſhed; ſo there is a Neceſſity to reſtrain this

Itch, which has ruined Numbers by confining the Buildings from ſpreading farther, as was done by King *James* the Firſt, the Head growing too bulky for the Body; and it ſcatters the People too wide from Buſineſs, ſo that the Retailers or Mechanicks cannot now wait upon the ſame Number of Cuſtomers in a Week as formerly he might in a Day; and the Loſs of his Time is the Loſs of his Money.

In King *Charles* the Second's Time many of the Nobility and Biſhops reſided in the City, the *Strand*, *Holborn*, and *Hatton Garden*; and ſeveral Members of Parliament about the Inns of Court, whereby the Retailers about thoſe Parts were enabled to pay Fines, and large Rents; but the Alterations thereabout is ſo great, that Houſes are greatly ſunk in their Rents, and ſeveral Houſes, which were formerly inhabited by Gentlemen, are now occupied by Tradeſmen: The Gentry being moved to remote new Buildings, and with them carried the Retail Trade.

So the principal Retailers, as uſed generally to live about thoſe publick Streets, and paid large Rents, which they uſed to make in Part, if not the whole, by their Lodgings, and by thoſe Means procure Cuſtomers in their various Occupations, now find a Deficiency in both; and a young Couple, with a thouſand Pounds between them, will find more Difficulty to live now than forty Years ago ſuch Perſons could with five hundred. But that the Caſe may be fairly ſtated, let every Tenant that pays fifty Pounds *per Annum* ſtanding Rent examine his Accounts, and ſee if they come under or exceed the following Expences.

Rent

	l.	s.	d.
Rent *per Annum*	50	00	0
Poor Rates at 2 *s.* *per* Pound	5	00	0
Water	1	04	0
Scavenger	0	14	0
Window Lights	1	00	0
Parſon	1	12	0
Watch	0	12	0
Lamps	0	6	0
Trained-Bands, when they go out	0	5	6
Summoning Bailiffs, *&c.*	0	3	6
Inſurance	1	0	0
Wear and Tear of Furniture	10	0	0
Maid Servant Wages and Keeping	15	0	0
Man Servant Wages and Keeping	28	0	0
Fire and Candles	12	0	0
Butcher, Baker, and Brewer, *&c.*	100	0	0
	216	17	0

This is an Expence which will follow Houſe-keeping upon the young Retailers, many find it more; for with all their Care Sickneſs may happen, and Loſs in Trade; and they muſt have very extraordinary Returns who can ſay, that in his Shop he has no dead Stock, ſuch as he would not be content to loſe by, nor did ever loſe by that, or bad Debts. Beſides, ſome Rates here may be placed too low, and if any are eſtimated too high, it is eaſy for the Reader to bring them to an Average; for there are ſeveral Expences, as being on Juries and parochial Offices, which will occaſionally happen, beſides thoſe mentioned; alſo Wearing Apparel, and Pocket Money, *&c.*

Some Cuſtoms are uſed which had better be omitted, ſuch as *Chriſtmas* Boxes, which among the

lower Claſs of People is often given to corrupt one the other's Servants, and ſometimes as a Bribe to injure their Maſters. This is ſo bad a Cuſtom, that it would be better broke than kept; and it would be more advantageous to Maſters of Families to give Servants higher Wages, than permit them to take Money of their Viſiters; for good-natured Maſters have often put themſelves to large Expences to entertain their Friends, that their Servants might have a Trifle (to his Expences) given them; and if his Gueſts have not been ſo extravagant as to pay more for their Meal than they could have decently provided for themſelves at a different Place, they may run the Chance of being affronted by the Servant.

The Humour of Country Houſes and Lodgings is pretty much abated; but to thoſe that keep them, How idle does it look, unleſs want of Health forces them to it? for all the laſt Summers it has been obſerved, that *London* has been more healthy than the Country, and great Expences follow Country Houſes and Lodgings: Neither was this the Method of the ancient Citizens of *London*, who kept *Sundays* at Church, and at home every Perſon that went thro' their Gates was examined. Their Apprentices, 'tis true, did not give ſuch large Sums of Money as they do now; but what was deficient in that they made up in Fidelity and Induſtry, which turned to a better Account to the Maſter and themſelves. Formerly they uſed to clean their own, if not their Maſter's Shoes, and attend them to Church, and fetch Water from the Conduits; and inſtead of Cambrick Ruffles had a good clean Band; and for Silk laced Waiſtcoats, an Apron before them to keep their Cloaths clean; and for fine Holland Shirts, had half Shirts and Sleeves; but now to their great Misfortune, many of them are at Taverns at Nights, and riding out on Days, that unfortunate Inſtances may be given

of deluded Youths having been ruined before they ſet up in the World, who might have enjoyed better Fates, if they had been prevented by prudent Maſters, and kept to the old Cuſtoms of the City, from falling a Prey to Sharpers, Extravagance, and Debauchery.

There is another very ill Cuſtom grown within theſe few Years: Formerly a Man in Summer Time could not have walked from *Charing-Croſs* to *White-Chapel*, and ſeen a Shop ſhut at Five of the Clock in the Morning, and now in going the ſame Ground one by Chance may be found open at Seven; likewiſe in the Evenings, they never ſhut up till Nine or Ten; now few keep 'em open till Eight, ſo loſe many Hours in the Day; and the Four o'Clock in the Morning Bell, which is uſed in many Cities of *England* among manufacturing People, is too little regarded in ſome Places; ſo that if they do not follow the laudable Cuſtoms, and keep to work the Hours of their Anceſtors, they cannot expect to have their Riches and Plenty.

In following our modern Diverſions inſtead of Buſineſs, is it to be expected they ſhould gain by it? or rather under the above Eſtimate, are they able to afford any? if not, ſurely they ought not to take up too much of their Time: Theſe muſical Entertainments, which are ſet up all round the Town, beſides the many Concerts, would make our Anceſtors ſay, that we make the old Proverb literally true, in giving away what we have for a Song.

Though Nobility and Gentry of large Fortunes encourage expenſive Diverſions, it does not become the Frugality of Citizens to follow ſuch Examples; for though they may ſpend Time and Money in ſuch Diverſions, whatever they may think of themſelves, they make a Part of the Entertainment.

If the Report is true, that our Nobility are grown greater Epicures than their Heroick Anceſtors, for

by

by *French* Cooks their Tables are furniſhed with *French* Diſhes, and more conſumed in making Sauces than furniſhed out the ſubſtantial Hoſpitality of their renowned Anceſtors: For we are told of a Diſh of *Ortelans* of thirty Guineas Price at one Entertainment; at another, of two hundred Hams for Gravy, taken by the Clerk of the Kitchen, who thought it great Frugality, that he had waſted (for it deſerves no other Name) but one hundred and ſeventy. Theſe are enormous Examples, ſuch as none but a *Juvenal* is fit to laſh, and no Citizen to imitate.

Tradeſmen would do well to remember the Saying of King *Charles* the Second, if they muſt frequent Taverns, and Places of Diverſion, that wiſe Men drank, but Fools eat there; for in his Reign Wine was leſs adulterated. Sack was the Liquor of the Poets in *Shakeſpear* and *Ben Johnſon*'s Time; and a But uſed to pertain annually to the Laureats; but whether this Perquiſite is taken away, or is ſo much brewed of late Years, that the Bays ſeems to be withered upon the Heads of our modern Poets; the Reader muſt ſatisfy his Curioſity of the preſent Poet; but it is certain, it was ſold in the Country only at Apothecaries Shops, and then drank only in ſuch Quantities as our modern Drams are now, too frequently uſed of late Years. The Butt Beer of *London* is ſo much improved, that not only ſeveral of the Nobility have it at their Tables, but it is ſent to *York*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, as one of the beſt of Potables, and by Phyſicians recommended as the Healthfulleſt.

A great many Gentlemen leave their Eſtates in the Country to follow their Diverſions about Town, and carry the Extravagance down among their Tenants; for in many Country Cities, ſince our ſtanding Armies, the Officers that have been quartered there have joined with them in their Aſſemblies, and raiſed a Spirit of Gaming, Pride, and Idleneſs, unknown to

their

their prudent Anceſtors; for in theſe Meetings their Wives and Daughters muſt have new Dreſſes, with Toys, every time they go to ſuch Places; this brings on mortgaging Eſtates, which is often loſt from ſome ancient Family to ſome *Novus Homo*, or upſtart Uſurer, which had not happened had they forbore theſe Extravagances. A general Regiſter might perhaps intimidate Men from following theſe Diverſions too cloſe; for the Shame of a mortgaged Eſtate ſtrikes ſome much, whilſt others for want of Regiſters turn diſhoneſt, and give frequent Mortgages on theirs to carry on their expenſive Pleaſures; and though prudent Care has been taken by the Government to prevent the Cheats of Dice, yet we do not know (ſo much the Itch of Gaming prevails) but that it may be neceſſary, to prevent more Ruin, to make another Act againſt all Gaming in general.

Our Anceſtors in the Beginning of Trade were naturally brought into the Knowledge of Figures, and Frugality of living, by which their Eſtates were kept free from Mortgages, and their Tables plentifully ſupplied with Viands of their own Country: Metheglin, Cyder, Mead, Ale, Beer, *&c.* ſupplied the Place of expenſive Foreign Wines; and the Tenants could live whilſt the Lord conſumed the Products of their Eſtates; but when a Foreign Vineron is paid the Rent of the Tenant for his Wines, and little Ortelans preferred to Turkeys, or other Domeſtick Fowls, Can it be expected that Eſtates can raiſe in their Value, or that the Tenants can be able to pay their Rents to ſupport the Nobility and Gentry in that Grandeur and Splendor of Living as ſuits their Dignities and Stations? When we conſider how prone Inferiors are to mimick their Superiors, how natural is it to think that they will follow them in their expenſive Pleaſures to their Deſtruction? Therefore it may be highly prudent for thoſe in higher Stations of Life

to baniſh as much as poſſible all Foreign Luxury from their Tables, and Foreigners from their Diverſions, leſt they ſhould bring themſelves to ſuch an unhappy Paſs, that they may have no Rents to receive for want of their Tenants having no Money to pay.

Private Vices cannot be publick Benefits. *Nemo repente fit peſſimus*; Vice comes by Degrees; from Faſhion often proceeds thoſe Ills, which Cuſtom and a long Standing render incurable: Elſe whence can it come, that our Ladies ſhould prefer the Singing of an *Italian Umbra Viri* before the more natural Harmony of their own Sex? but it is no doubt but our Gentlemen, in bare Compliance to the Fair Sex, imitate their Taſte; and may they not find *Shakeſpear*'s Saying, by ſad Experience, too true, *viz.* that the Toe of the Peaſant follows ſo cloſe the Heel of the Courtier already, that it galls his Kibe.

The Love of Muſick is now deſcended from the Opera-houſe in the *Hay-Market* to the little Publick Houſes about this Metropolis, and common Servants may be now met with, who pretend as much Judgment of an Opera Tune as my Lady Dutcheſs; and it may be feared, that theſe, for want of Judgment or Education, may follow their Superiors in their other Diverſions; however, improper for Perſons of inferior Stations of Life to imitate.

From hence proceeds ſuch Numbers of idle People, that Correſpondence is almoſt ſtopped in ſome Parts of the Town; Thieves, Vagabonds, and idle Women, are grown a greater Nuſance than ever in and about this great Metropolis: Bagnios and Coffee-houſes not put up for Health or Buſineſs, but to encourage Debauchery, whereby ſeveral young Gentlemen have been decoyed, to the Deſtruction of their Healths and Eſtates. Gaming is carried on, where the meaneſt are admitted; and we have had Inſtances

of

of Servants robbing their Maſters to be tricked by Sharpers at ſuch Places.

When Robberies of this kind are committed, the common Receptacles, as appears by the Seſſions Papers, are the Pawnbrokers about theſe Cities, whoſe Balls are too common in almoſt every Street; they have Clubs and Societies to ſupport one another, when they happen to be proſecuted for their illegal Practices. The Labour of the induſtrious and neceſſitous Poor theſe Cormorants devour by their Extortion, not being contented under almoſt *Cent per Cent*; it is ſurely worth while for the ſeveral Pariſhes to look into ſuch Creators of Poverty, which over-burthen the Inhabitants with Poor; and if they tried, like the Banks of Piety abroad, to lend a little Money to their neceſſitous, honeſt Poor, and take no more Intereſt than is neceſſary to carry on ſuch an Expence, they would eaſe their Rates; but if they don't care to do that, perhaps the Legiſlature may find a Method by Stamps and Licences to partake in their Gain; for it cannot be reaſonable, that theſe Drones of Society ſhould ſuck up all the Honey of the poor, induſtrious, labouring Mechanick.

It is time (if not already too deep rooted, for the Magiſtrates or Legiſlature to eradicate) that private Perſons ſhould ſtep forth in the Cauſe of Virtue, and enter by Cities, Towns and Societies into Aſſociations, to prevent thoſe Things that bring Deſtruction on their Country, and prevent the Uſe of Foreign Commodities in their Families; when we can be ſupplied with every thing at home that anſwers as well, if not better, to all the Purpoſes deſigned; nor entertain Dancers and Singers from abroad, when we have People enough of our own ready to divert us, and lay out what they acquire by ſuch Means amongſt us. We are engaged in a War with *Spain*; nor know we but we may be actually in another for the

Queen of *Hungary*, who already has had large Remittances to ſupport her, and the Liberties of *Europe* in general; nor know we but more may be called for; likewiſe large Remittances are and muſt be made to ſupport our Forces in *Flanders*, and the Loſs the Nation ſuffers by their Abſence; beſides the *Heſſians* and *Hanoverians* in *Britiſh* Pay, which will be a conſtant Drain of Caſh from us.

Beſides the Lottery, 800,000 Pounds is added to the Capital of the Bank, which will lock up ſo much more Money from the circulating Caſh of the Nation: Ballance of Trade againſt us in *Europe*, Remittances of Intereſt to Foreigners for their Money in the Funds, is ſo great a Weight to over-ballance us, unleſs we uſe all Methods of Frugality, and diſcourage every thing that tends to Extravagance, inevitable Deſtruction and Slavery muſt be our Portion.

At home *Smugglers* almoſt ruin the fair Trader, *ſtanding Armies* the Publick, *Cuſtoms* the Merchants, and *Exciſes* every one. The Exciſe Man is our Companion from the Crown of our Head to the Soal of our Foot; if we clean our Hair, he examines the Powder; even the Waſhing the Ladies Linen does not eſcape Inſpection; he walks abroad in our Shoes; at our Tables he ſeaſons our Meat; and he drinks ſo deep in our Cup, that he has a larger Portion than the Owner of the Land, which ſowed the Barley for the Malt, through the various Payments of Land-tax, Malting, and Brewing (beſides Tythes.) Is it Daylight? he peeps in at our Windows; is it Night? he ſhines in our Candles. Have we Sweets or Sours, Light or Darkneſs, the *Cuſtom-houſe Officers* or *Exciſemen* are our conſtant Attendants. Under ſuch Circumſtances, what Room have we for expenſive Pleaſures, or exotick Diverſions?

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The Complaints about the State is the Number of Place-men, who have, we are told, Penſioners upon them, and Numbers of uſeleſs Officers. In the Church, Commendams and Pluralities, Arch-deacons Viſitations, which, as Biſhop *Burnet* ſays, were only created for Forms and Fees, and might be better ſupplied by rural Deans. In the Law, ſeveral expenſive Offices intirely uſeleſs. Though Money is borrowed by the Government at Three *per Cent.* the Intereſt and collecting of it has been computed to coſt the Nation finely; all which are paid out of the Induſtry of trading People: Theſe accumulated Hardſhips, (unleſs with great Prudence and Frugality remedied) muſt bring us to Slavery in the End.

His Majeſty, who is a true *Pater Patriæ*, hears but with other Ears, and knows not the real Poverty of his People; he ſees ſplendid Equipages, gay Looks, embroidered and rich Apparel, and therefore may reaſonably conclude, that their Eſtates are anſwerable to their Appearance; but if it ſhould be His Majeſty's Royal Pleaſure, upon ſome publick Day, to command my *Lord Chamberlain* to order Receipts upon their Tradeſmen's Bills, as Tickets for Commiſſion to appear in the Royal Preſence, or even in the Anti-chamber, without a Spirit of Propheſy one might tell, there would be a fuller Park than Court that Day at St. *James's*.

The City is ſupplied with greater Plenty of luxurious Proviſions than any Part of the Kingdom, the Market being made by the great Number of Purchaſers, eſpecially where the Court and Nobility reſort ſo much to it; but if we were to look into remote Parts, how miſerable are the Poor in *Ireland*? Though they ſupply the Shipping with Beef, they live on ſour Milk and Potatoes. In *Scotland* and *Wales*, though they breed Cattle, they are ſent to other Markets;

Markets; and though they have Wool, neither wear Shoes or Stockings, but upon extraordinary Occaſions; Whey, Oatmeal and Rye Bread, and Fiſh, being their chief Support, and the Landlords are obliged to take their Rents in kind; and ſome Parts of *England* are but little better provided: Therefore we ought to avoid the preſent modiſh Diverſions, as we are liable to their State of Life.

Paleſtine and *Egypt* enjoyed Liberty when the Natives were frugal and induſtrious; the Climate made them the richeſt People in the Univerſe; but when Luxury had effeminated the Inhabitants, they fell a Prey to arbitrary *Turkiſh* Government, the Country grew depopulated, and is at this Day the pooreſt in the World.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula Cautum.

In order to prevent ſuch Effects happening to our own, there ought to be taken the ſtricteſt Care of the Education of our Youth of both Sexes. The Ancients underſtood that wiſe Precept, of training up a Child in the Way that it ſhould go: Experience taught them, that Virtue could not be propagated without a virtuous Education, which was therefore looked upon as the moſt publick Concern; the Inſpection of it was committed to the wiſeſt and moſt prudent Magiſtrates, and the Youth was inſtructed by the moſt diſintereſted Philoſophers. At the Age of ſeven Years the *Lacedemonian* Youths were delivered to the Magiſtrates to be educated, according to the Rules of that State; and it is recorded of the *Areopagites* or *Athenian* Senators, that they were not content with having ordered ſtated Puniſhments for certain Crimes, but made ſuch wiſe Regulations for the Education of their Youth, that there were no

Crimes for Puniſhment. The Politeneſs of *Greece*, and the old *Roman* Parſimony, were agreeably blended in thoſe that were intruſted with the Education of the *Roman* Youth; they were equally eminent for their Temperance and Moderation, their Humility and Learning. They were living Examples of thoſe virtuous Diſpoſitions they inculcated, their Honour was great, their *Gain* moderate, and annexed to a ſtrict Execution of their Duty; the higher the Station of a Student, ſtricter were the Obligations laid upon him to Application, and the more aſſiduous the Care of the Inſtructor to imprint upon his tender Mind virtuous and generous Principles; he was taught to deſpiſe Riches in compariſon of Virtue, *Fulvo precioſius auro*, and made to know that neither Titles nor Money could diſpenſe with the Rules of Society, nor attone for idle Irregularities of Life, or the Want of a publick Spirit. Tutors thus qualified, the Methods of Education thus regulated, muſt of conſequence produce Pupils of immortal Fame; by theſe Methods a *Roman* Youth put on Patriotiſm with the manly Robe, and was qualified to fill the moſt important Poſts in the Common-wealth; ſuch were *Valerius Corvinus*, *Scipio*, &c.

There cannot be a more incoherent, deſpicable and depraved Character, than a Gentleman and not a Patriot. Publick Honours and Wealth ought to accompany publick Spirits, and he that wants ſuch a Diſpoſition infamouſly ſullies his Honour, and baſely forgoes the Love of his Country, and the Regard and Welfare of Mankind; he is intirely unworthy of bearing any Truſt for his Country; he may be flattered by a few Adherents to his private Fortune, as Princes are by their Court Locuſts, a ſufficient Number of which may equal, if not ſurpaſs, the deplorable Calamity *Egypt* once ſuffered by Inſects of the ſame Name, though leſs venomous Quality.

Virtue

Virtue is the Support of every State, which cannot ſtand without a virtuous Education. *Livy* attributes the Degeneracy of the Sons of *Junius Brutus* to a vicious Education in the luxurious and debauched Court of a cruel Tyrant: And the Want of a virtuous Education, the ſame Hiſtorian tells us, preceded the Deſtruction of the *Roman* State, *viz.* Oaths were contemned, the Laws invaded, Vice become the Subject of Mirth, and the moſt ſacred things turned into Ridicule, and *Corruption* the reigning Vice of the Age. The Words of this Hiſtorian are ſufficient to convince the People of *England*, that it is both their Duty and Intereſt to be the Guardians and Promoters of a publick Spirit, which, though like the human Body, attains its Growth but by ſlow Degrees, is liable to a momentary Depravation.

In *England* formerly Biſhops and Noblemen had Academies in their Houſes for Youth: Cardinal *Woolſey* had Lord *Piercy*, Son of the Earl of *Northumberland*, and other young Noblemen: Archbiſhop *Whitgift* had a Number of young Gentlemen and poor Scholars in his Houſe, who were inſtructed in Arts and Languages: Archbiſhop *Williams* for the ſame Purpoſe had the Sons of the Marquis of *Hartford*, Earls of *Pembroke*, *Saliſbury*, and *Leiceſter*, with other young Gentlemen; and ſome Lay Lords have done the ſame, as the late Lord *Lanſdown* aſſures us, of the the Earls of *Bath*, whereby they ſecured a natural Intereſt in their Country, and trained up the Sons of their Friends in the Principles of Integrity and Virtue.

It is the Opinion of ſome, that our preſent Method of Education lies under ſome Diſadvantages, the Church of *Rome* reſolving to eſtabliſh her Uſurpation, not only over the Bodies, but the Minds of Men. The World was ſufficiently vitiated for any wicked Purpoſe (one would think) by the prevailing Luxury

of

of preceding Ages, and by the Reigns of many imperial Monſters; yet ſhe judged the Minds of Men not ſufficiently debaſed to ſwallow her groſs Abſurdities, unleſs Virtue was quite eradicated, and all uſeful Learning extinguiſhed, and the very Name of a publick Spirit obliterated. In order to this, ſhe invented a nonſenſical Jargon of unintelligible Diſtinctions, Definitions and Diviſions, adapted to perplex the Head, without improving or mending the Heart.

Neither Gravity, Temperance, Moderation, Humility, Knowledge of Mankind, Experience in Affairs, or a publick Spirit, were reputed neceſſary Qualifications for an *Inſtructor* of *Youth* in thoſe Days; but ſuch as rather gloried in propagating Principles deſtructive of publick Liberty, and effectually to incapacitate the Nobility and Gentry from oppoſing her Deſigns. It was on all Occaſions inculcated, that Application was only required of thoſe that wanted Bread: Idleneſs was encouraged in proportion to the Station of the Student, and Money waſhed out the Stains of Negligence and Irregularity. Thus young Gentlemen were ſent out *Drudges* into the World amidſt the Pleaſures of Luxury, unfortified with Virtue, and Heads either empty, or filled with Trifles.

But ſince the Reformation, Virtue, and all ſorts of Learning, flouriſh in our Colleges and Univerſities; but ſome think they labour under conſiderable Diſcouragements. We know the Intention of the Church of *Rome*'s injoining Celibacy to her Clergy; but of what Uſe Proteſtant Celibacy can be, is hard to determine, ſince Academical Statutes cannot extinguiſh natural Paſſions; and ſince ſo many and ſuch comfortable Settlements are provided for ſuch as are inclined to change their Conditions, we muſt expect a quick Rotation of Fellows; and to our Grief a Time

may come, when a Set of raw unexperienced Youths may be intruſted with the Education of the Flower and Hopes of theſe Nations.

Some think the Clergy, in the firſt Rudiments of Education, not the moſt proper Perſons to have the Care of Youth, being often tempted to ſeek Preferments, rather than attend the important Charge of their tender Pupils: This Neglect in ſeveral publick Schools has made ſeveral prefer a private Education to a publick one; and Perſons of a more inferior Degree have found it much cheaper to purchaſe a Preſentation or perpetual Advowſon for their Children, than to run the Riſque, not without Danger to their Perſons or Morals; beſides the *extravagant Expences* of our modern School Education in Attendance of Preferment, which ariſes from them.

But notwithſtanding the Advantages of Education, if the Love of our Country grows lukewarm, it is not to be doubted but our *Legiſlators* will make the Cauſe of ſo ruinous a Degeneracy the Subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry, and apply Remedies ſuitable to the Urgency of our Affairs.

In private Life our Education wants Reformation: *Youths* intended for *Trades* are kept ſo long at Schools learning dead Languages, which are uſeleſs to ſuch as are not bred to ſome particular Profeſſions. This we ſee by the *Jews*, whoſe Children, when very young, are Maſters of the modern Languages, tranſacting Buſineſs of ſome Thouſands of Pounds, whilſt ours of the ſame Age are puzzling themſelves about ſome Criticiſm in a Claſſick, drudging whole Years in uſeleſs Pedantry, until his Paſſions are grown upon him; and if it ſhould then happen, for want of a Foundation, to apply to Buſineſs, it is a great chance if ever ſuch a Perſon rightly apply to it all his Life.

The Education of Citizens Children at great publick Schools among Noblemen gains them no Reſpect; and when they grow up, they are no more eſteemed by their School-fellows, than *Moliere*'s Citizen turned Gentleman; and young *Noblemen* are often impoſed upon, and brought into mean Habits, which in a private Education they would have been Strangers to.

Dead Learning creates a great many poor Gentlemen, or as the *Dutch* call them, idle Men; for without Eſtates (where it is both ornamental and uſeful) it may be prejudicial to thoſe Perſons, who are only poſſeſſed of ſuch Accompliſhments: Many of whom, by Experience, know the Land about *Parnaſſus*, though fruitful in fine Flowers, does not bear ſufficiently to defend from the Inclemency of Weather, or ſatisfy a craving Appetite. *Boileau* the *French* Poet uſed to ſay, that a good Maſon or Shoemaker were more uſeful Members to the Commonwealth, than a Dabbler in Poetry; nor does this dead Learnning contribute ſo much, as many would perſuade us, to excuſe their Loſs of Time in refining our Language, there being few Words beſides thoſe that terminate in *on* derived from the *Latin*. We are a compound of various Nations and Languages, the chief of which is the *Saxon*; and the Laws of our Anceſtors were in that Language till the *Norman* Conqueſt, who, to introduce theirs, altered it to the *French*, but never could quite eradicate the *Saxon*: But what Compliment do ſuch pay the Fair Sex, ſuch as Mrs. *Singer*, Mrs. *K. Phillips*, who diſtinguiſhed themſelves before ſeveral who have read *Virgil* and *Horace* in their Original?

Our *Female Education* at Boarding Schools teaches a falſe Politeneſs, where Children are too much inſtructed in *Viſits*, *Faſhions*, *Cards* and *Aſſemblies*, that they are Strangers to all Domeſtick OEconomy when they are ſettled in the World: Often from

thence proceeds Diſcontents in their Marriage States; and if it ſhould ſo happen, that their Parents die before them, and leave not a Sufficiency to ſupport them ſuitable to their Education, to the Shame of ſuch, they often run into the moſt enormous Vices the Sex can be guilty of. A good Family Education would be far more advantageous; and if it was carried farther, that Part of their Time was more employed in Writing and Accompts than is uſual at preſent in Female Education, it would not only give them a Notion of Frugality for the Benefit of their Families, but, like the *Dutch* Wives, might be truſted with the Purſe; and by being uſeful to their Huſbands, get a greater Aſcendant over their Hearts, than all the idle Amuſements that can be invented; and in caſe of their Deceaſe, might be more able to encounter with ſuch Accidents than moſt Widows, which at preſent fall under ſuch Circumſtances.

In the lower Part of Education, the *Charity Schools* may be more uſefully applied than what is generally thought they are: Theſe poor Children having no Dependance are bred up above common Labour, equal, if not to exceed middling Tradeſmen's Children. This ſeems not to have been the firſt Intention of the Founders, but charitably to take thoſe Children from being Vagabonds about our Streets, and giving them Notions above ſuch Vices as muſt proceed from ſuch Courſes of Life, that they might become uſeful Servants. And indeed it is wiſhed by many, that they had not ſo much Liberty as they have; but by placing them in ſome Method of Work, according to their different Capacities, to make Labour a Diverſion to them, it may be better than letting them go home conſtantly to their Parents, who cannot give them ſuch good Proviſions, and are bad Examples, which with a ſmall Addition which might be this

Way

Way provided for them, they might be prevented from ſeeing a great many Vices, as otherwiſe they might be ſubject to. Indeed in ſeveral Workhouſes about *London*, they are employed in little Manufactures as they are capable of, which prevents them from being ſubject to the Hunger, as thoſe which are not ſo well provided are ſubject to; and even if they were employed (in which they would be diverted) to make Toys like the *Dutch* Children, ſome think it would ſave thirty thouſand Pounds *per Annum* going to *Holland* for ſuch Bawbles, which would be a great Support to all the Charity Schools in this Kingdom; and the Children might be bred up in Habits of Induſtry, that will make their Service be ſought for rather than refuſed, as is now by many.

Thus much for *Education:* The Reader may think it too much, but it being ſo material from the higheſt to the loweſt Station, that the Prolixity on this Subject carries its Excuſe; for an Authority that cannot err has told, that *we cannot gather Grapes from Thorns, or Figs from Thiſtles; what we graft, ſuch ſhall we gather, and every Tree is known by its Fruit*; therefore we cannot expect to have a publick Spirit, Virtue and Integrity, grow up in a Mind uninſtructed in it; and for a virtuous Education, a Child is more obliged to its Parent than for its very Being.

As *Trade* produces *Riches*, ſo naturally will follow *Luxury*: But where it runs in Ballance againſt a Nation, though a private Perſon may get by it at preſent, no Encouragement may be given to it, eſpecially from thoſe Nations that depreſſes ours, for in the long run it will bring Deſtruction upon the whole Kingdom. As to ſeveral Commodities as we have from other *Europeans*, there is no doubt if Bounties were given at firſt, but that they might be raiſed in his

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Majesty's Dominions in *America*, they being so extensive, that they take in all the Latitudes of *Europe*; and then those things that are now Luxuries would cease in some measure to be so, and become our proper Commodities; and, like naval Stores, we might sell some to other Nations, and inforce our Ballance and Trade with them.

Sugars, Rum, Coffee, Chocolate, are of *English* Growth (though not used in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time) cease to be publick Luxury to those that can afford them; as does the Tobacco, Snuff and Rice of *America*, besides taking the Superfluities of our Fellow Subjects to the Encouragement of Navigation, are re-exported to other Nations; they raise *Naval Stores* of all Sorts, *Iron*, *Fir*, *Woods for dying*, and other Uses, which we should be obliged to purchase at their own Rates of Foreigners, or *Felts* and *Skins* as employ our People at home, or *Fish* for Exportation abroad; but what is to be avoided is real Luxury, that is, finished Commodities, or Things of no intrinsick Value, which we purchase with Cash, or other solid Commodities, such as China, which those that purchase old are *prodigiously cheated* by an Imitation, Diamonds, Toys, Wines, Provisions for Luxury, and full-wrought Manufactures of Foreign Make; these Things, like Pest-houses, ought to be avoided, or it will affect not only the Persons, but the Nation that uses them, with the *Plague* of *Poverty*.

The *Dutch* are remarkable for Frugality, and it is fashionable for them never to live up to Two-thirds of their Income, though loaded with Excises, which is not given away to Pensioners or Placemen, but frugally applied to the publick Use; this joined with Industry, and the low Interest of Money, enables them to trade into all Parts of the World.

This

This makes the States, in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time, the poor diſtreſſed, now the high and mighty, courted by all *Europe*; their Credit is great, their Trade extenſive, and their Liberties ſecure, amidſt the Wars in *Europe*; and if we imitate their Maxims, we are not yet ſo far ſunk, but we may as well in private as in publick Life appear with the ſame Grandeur.

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